

Belmont Abbey Outlasts Bears In 12 Innings

Written by Staff Reports

Thursday, 09 February 2012 09:14

The Belmont Abbey Baseball Team (5-1) spoiled Lenoir-Rhyne's (1-5) home opener Wednesday with an 8-7 victory in 12 innings at Bears Field. In the top of the 12th inning, the Crusaders' John Cucchiarella (Kantoah, N.Y.) broke a seven-all tie with an RBI single which

proved to be the game-winner. The two teams played their third 12-inning game in five years, all at Lenoir-Rhyne. The Bears suffered their fifth straight setback as well.

Belmont Abbey opened the scoring in the top of the fourth inning with three runs capped off by Joey Frabasile's (Hartsdale, N.Y.) RBI single. Frabasile led the Crusaders with a game-high four hits.

Lenoir-Rhyne, however, responded with four runs in its half of the fourth culminated by a two-run double from freshman catcher Landon Elks (Shelby, N.C.).

Belmont Abbey pushed its lead back to three runs at 7-4 but Lenoir-Rhyne tied the contest again with a three-run seventh inning.

L-R junior outfielder Rai Robinson (Kings Mountain, N.C.) connected on an RBI double and later tied the score at seven with a two-out run. Robinson finished with a team-high three hits and two runs scored.

The game remained 7-7 until Belmont Abbey finally scored in the top of the 12th inning to take the victory.

Belmont Abbey's Matt Parish (Morristown, N.J.) did not allow a run in five innings of work to go along with six strikeouts in improving to 3-0 on the season. The Crusaders' Emilio Pagan (Simpsonville, S.C.) notched his fourth save of the year after pitching a scoreless 12th inning.

L-R junior Clay Tresher (Matthews, N.C.) fell to 0-1 on the year after being tagged with the loss. Lenoir-Rhyne travels to Tigerville, S.C., to face North Greenville on Friday beginning at 2 p.m., while Belmont Abbey hosts St. Anselm in a doubleheader Saturday beginning at Noon.

Photo Courtesy: Rai Robinson, LRU Athletics

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